



Requirements for the Standard Professional Moderate/Severe Disabilities Certificate – Grades K-12

Arizona Department of Education – Certification Unit

Standard Professional Moderate/Severe Disabilities, K-12

The Standard certificate is valid for 12 years and may be renewed.

Requirements for the Standard Professional Moderate/Severe Disabilities are:

1. **Application:** Submission of a completed [Application for Certification](#) and the appropriate fee (see Application for Certification).
2. **AZDPS IVP fingerprint clearance card:** A photocopy of your valid [Arizona Department of Public Safety Identity Verified Prints \(IVP\)](#) fingerprint clearance card.
3. **Bachelor's degree:** A Bachelor's or more advanced degree from an accredited college or university.
 - Required Documentation:* Official transcript(s) posting the degree and date awarded.
4. **One of the following (Option A, B, or C):**

Option A. Teacher Preparation Program: Completion of a teacher preparation program in Moderate/Severe Disabilities Special Education from a Board-approved educator preparation program or from an accredited institution offering substantially similar training, addressing the topics listed below and any others as required by law: Research-based systematic phonics; Research-based instructional strategies for delivering differentiated reading instruction, assessment, intervention and remediation to support readers of varying ages and ability levels, including students with dyslexia; Instructional design and lesson planning, including specially designed instruction; The learning environment, including classroom and individual behavioral management; Instructional delivery, facilitation and methodologies for teaching research-based instruction in math and English language arts; Legal aspects of special education, including individualized education programs and transition planning; Effective collaboration and communication practices, including modifications and accommodations; Adaptive communication, including language development and disorders; Assessment and eligibility, including monitoring and reporting requirements; Professional responsibility and ethical conduct; Twelve weeks of capstone experience as described in R7-2-604 in special education in moderate to severe moderate/severe disabilities grades K through 12, which may be completed during the valid period of a teaching intern certificate.

- Required Documentation:* Official transcripts or an Arizona Institutional Recommendation (IR) documenting completion of the teacher preparation program.

Option B. Teaching Experience and Coursework/Training. Both of the following (B-1 **and** B-2):

B-1. Two (2) years of full-time teaching experience in Moderate/Severe Special Education.

- Required Documentation to meet B-1:* A [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form, completed and signed by the school Superintendent or Personnel/HR director, verifying completion of the required teaching experience. **-AND-**

B-2. Completion of Board approved or accredited coursework or trainings which teach the knowledge and skills described in Arizona Administrative Code R7-2-602 and address the following topics:

- a. Research-based systematic phonics;
- b. Research-based instructional strategies for delivering differentiated reading instruction, assessment, intervention and remediation to support readers of varying ages and ability levels, including students with dyslexia;
- c. Instructional design and lesson planning, including specially designed instruction;
- d. The learning environment, including classroom and individual behavioral management;
- e. Instructional delivery, facilitation and methodologies for teaching research-based instruction in math and English language arts;



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- f. Legal aspects of special education, including individualized education programs and transition planning;
 - g. Effective collaboration and communication practices, including modifications and accommodations;
 - h. Adaptive communication, including language development and disorders;
 - i. Assessment and eligibility, including monitoring and reporting requirements;
 - j. Professional responsibility and ethical conduct;
- Required Documentation to meet B-2:* Official transcript(s) documenting completion of the coursework or trainings.

Option C. Out-of-State Certification. The applicant holds a valid, comparable Moderate/Severe Disabilities Special Education certificate from another state and is in good standing with that other state. Applicants who qualify under this option are **not** required to meet the exam requirements listed under #5 and #6.

- Required Documentation:* A photocopy of the valid, comparable teaching certificate from another state.

5. Professional Knowledge Special Education Exam Requirement

Submit proof of **ONE** of the following (Option A, B, C, D, or E):

Option A. Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment: A passing score on the AEPA Special Education: Severely and Profoundly Disabled (AZ 030) exam.

- Required Documentation:* A photocopy of the passing score report.

Option B. Out-of-State Exam: A passing score on a substantially similar Special Education: Severely and Profoundly Disabled exam from another state or agency.

- Required Documentation:* An original, official score report, or a verification letter from the state agency that accepted the exam, documenting that you passed the exam.

Option C. NBPTS Certificate: A valid comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS).

- Required Documentation:* A photocopy of the NBPTS certificate.

Option D. Teaching Experience: Three years of full-time contracted teaching experience in any state, including Arizona, in Moderate/Severe Disabilities Special Education K-12. *Note:* Experience teaching in a foreign school does **not** meet this requirement.

- Required Documentation:* A [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form, completed and signed by the District Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director, verifying the required full-time teaching experience in a school within the United States.

Option E. Previous Professional Knowledge Exam Requirement. A passing score on the AEPA or NES Assessment of Professional Knowledge-Elementary may be accepted for applications received on or before October 1, 2019 that include documentation of one of the following:

- Official transcripts documenting a Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctoral degree in Moderate/Severe Special Education; **-OR-**
- A letter from a college or university Department Chair, Dean, or Personnel Director verifying experience teaching courses relevant to Moderate/Severe Special Education for the past two consecutive years and a total of three years; **-OR-**



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- Verification of expertise in Moderate/Severe Special Education through five years of relevant work. Applicants may submit a letter from an Arizona public-school Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director verifying that they have five years of work experience which demonstrates expertise in the subject area or a resume which details work experience of at least five years which demonstrates expertise in the subject area. Note: The Department will review the verification letter or your resume to determine if you have demonstrated expertise through five years of relevant work experience.

6. Subject Knowledge Exam Requirement

Submit proof of ONE of the following (Option A, B, C, D, E, F, G, or H):

Option A. Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment: A passing score on the NES Subject Knowledge Elementary Education Subtests I and II (NT 102 **and** NT 103) exam.

- Required Documentation:* A photocopy of the passing score report.

Option B. Out-of-State Exam: A passing score on a substantially similar Subject Knowledge: Elementary Education examination from another state or agency.

- Required Documentation:* An original, official score report, or verification letter from the agency that accepted the exam, documenting that you passed the substantially similar exam.

Option C. NBPTS: A valid comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

- Required Documentation:* A photocopy of the NBPTS certificate.

Option D. Degree in the Subject: A Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctorate degree from an accredited institution in Moderate/Severe Disabilities Special Education **or** Elementary Education.

- Required Documentation:* Official transcripts documenting the degree.

Option E. Teaching Experience: Verification of three years of full-time teaching experience in any state, including Arizona, in Moderate/Severe Disabilities Special Education or in a self-contained, K-8 classroom.

Note: Experience teaching in a foreign school does not meet this requirement.

- Required Documentation:* A [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form, completed and signed by the District Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director verifying full-time contracted teaching experience.

Option F. Post-Secondary Teaching: Experience teaching courses relevant to Moderate/Severe Disabilities Special Education or Elementary Education for the last two consecutive years and for a total of at least three years, at one or more regionally or nationally accredited postsecondary institutions.

- Required Documentation:* A letter(s) from the college or university Department Chair, Dean, or Personnel Director, verifying postsecondary teaching experience for the specific durations.

Option G. Work Experience: Demonstration of expertise in Moderate/Severe Disabilities Special Education or Elementary Education through five years of relevant work experience.

- Required Documentation.* One of the following:
 - A letter from an Arizona public-school Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director verifying that they have five years of work experience which demonstrates expertise in the subject area; **-OR-**
 - A resume which details work experience of at least five years which demonstrates expertise in the subject area. Note: The Department will review your resume to determine if you have demonstrated expertise through five years of relevant work experience.



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Option H. Previous Subject Knowledge Exam Requirement: A passing score on the AEPA Special Education: Severely and Profoundly Disabled (AZ 030) exam may be accepted for applications received on or before October 1, 2019 that include documentation of one of the following:

- A passing score on the AEPA or NES Assessment of Professional Knowledge-Elementary; or
- An official score report or verification letter documenting that you passed a substantially similar Professional Knowledge-Elementary exam from another state or agency; or
- Verification of three years of full-time, contracted teaching experience in any state, including Arizona, in grades K-8. **Note:** Teaching experience in a foreign school does not meet this requirement.

Requirements #7, #8, #9, #10, and #11 are allowable deficiencies which must be completed in the specified timeframe.

The following requirements must be completed within **one year** or **three years** to maintain the validity of the certificate:

- 7. Arizona Constitution:** A college course or the appropriate examination covering the provisions and principles of the Arizona Constitution.
- 8. U.S. Constitution:** A college course or the appropriate examination covering the provisions and principles of the United States Constitution.
- 9. Phonics:** A college course or Board approved or accredited training in research-based systematic phonics.
- 10. Dyslexia:** A college course or Board approved or accredited training in research-based instructional strategies for delivering differentiated reading instruction, assessment, intervention and remediation to support readers of varying ages and ability levels, including students with dyslexia.
- 11. Ethics:** A college course or Board approved or accredited training in professional responsibility and ethical conduct.

Arizona and U.S. Constitution Requirements: If you otherwise qualify but are deficient in the Arizona Constitution and/or U.S. Constitution, you have **three years** under a valid teaching certificate to fulfill these requirements, except that if you are certified to teach an academic course on history, government, social studies, citizenship, law, or civics, you have **one year** to fulfill the Arizona and U.S. Constitution requirements. **

Phonics, Dyslexia, and Ethics Requirements: If you otherwise qualify but are deficient in the Phonics, Dyslexia, and/or Ethics requirements, you have **three years** under a valid teaching certificate to fulfill these requirements. **

****NOTE:** If you do not complete the allowable deficiency requirements within the allowable time frame, your Standard teaching certificate will be **temporarily suspended** and will not be valid for employment until the deficiency is corrected. A temporary suspension for failure to meet these requirements is not considered a disciplinary action and a person shall be allowed to correct the deficiency within the remaining timeframe of the certificate. **